

CLAIMS

1. A method for judging inflammatory diseases which comprises detecting at least one gene polymorphism in the galectin-2 gene.
2. A method for judging inflammatory diseases which comprises detecting at least one single nucleotide polymorphism in the galectin-2 gene.
3. A method for judging inflammatory diseases which comprises detecting the C/T polymorphism at nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the inflammatory disease is myocardial infarction.
5. An oligonucleotide that can hybridize to a sequence consisting of at least 10 continuous nucleotides including the nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complementary sequence thereof, and that can be used as a probe in the method of any of claims 1 to 4.
6. An oligonucleotide that can amplify a sequence consisting of at least 10 continuous nucleotides including the nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or a complementary sequence thereof and that can be used as a primer in the method of any of claims 1 to 4.
7. The oligonucleotide of claim 6 wherein the primer is a forward and/or reverse primer.
8. A diagnostic kit for inflammatory diseases which comprises at least 1 oligonucleotide according to any of claims 5 to 7.
9. The kit of claim 8 wherein the inflammatory disease is myocardial infarction.
10. A method for analyzing the state of galectin-2 expression which comprises detecting the C/T polymorphism at nucleotide 3279 in the nucleotide sequence of intron 1 of the galectin-2 gene as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
11. A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of analyzing the expression level of the galectin-2 or galectin-1 genes in

cells in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that alters such expression level.

12. A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of analyzing the expression level of the galectin-2 or galectin-1 genes in cells in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that increases such expression level.

13. A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for inflammatory diseases which comprises steps of assaying the binding between lymphotoxin- α (LTA) and the gene product of galectin-2 or galectin-1 in the presence of a candidate substance and selecting a substance that inhibits such binding.